# THE STATE OF THE *LADIES* CHARITY-SCHOOL,

Lately ſet up in BALDWIN-STREET,

In the CITY of *BRISTOL*,

For teaching POOR GIRLS

# To READ and SPIN;

Together with their

RULES and METHODS of PROCEEDING.

*BRISTOL:*

Printed by S. FARLEY, in *Caſtle-Green*, 1756.

MVSEVM
BRITAN
NICVM

# THE STATE OF THE LADIES *Charity-School*, &c.

THE Promoters of this Charity, in their printed Paper of the 8th of January 1755, thought it neceſſary to obſerve, That what was then humbly ſubmitted to public Conſideration, was only propoſed by Way of *Experiment*. For as the Plan was new, and the Propoſers of it not fully acquainted with the Nature of the Manufacture intended to be carried on, they could not promiſe an abſolute Certainty; notwithſtanding there was a ſtrong Probability of Succeſs. But though the Succeſs of the Undertaking might admit of ſome Doubt, before a Trial, the *Charitableneſs* of ſuch a Deſign could admit of none at all, inaſmuch as this City alone, not to mention the reſt of the Kingdom, furniſhes daily and melancholly Proofs, that when Youth, Idleneſs, and Poverty meet together, they have become fatal Temptations to many unhappy Creatures, who, if they had been taught good Principles, and, at the ſame Time, brought up to a Habit of Induſtry, and put above the Reach of Want, might have been virtuous and happy in themſelves, and uſeful Members of Society.

Therefore ſeveral Perſons laſt Year, animated by nobler and better Motives than the little Connections of *Sect*, or the mean Views of *Party*, reſolved to unite their good Endeavours towards reſcuing ſuch pitiable Objects among the riſing Generation from impending Ruin, by deſtroy-

ing

ing the Evil at the Root. To this End they propoſed to erect a CHARITY SCHOOL, to teach poor Girls to *read* and *ſpin*. And their Neighbourhood to the County of *Somerſet*, which produces great Quantities of moſt excellent Flax, and might be made to produce infinitely more, together with ſome other Conſiderations, determined them to fix upon the Spinning of *Flax*, as being a Material of great and univerſal Uſe, and preferable to any other in their Circumſtances. If the Plan ſucceeded, future Improvements might be made, and other Branches of the Manufacture, a Weaving School in particular, might eaſily be grafted upon it: But if not, they would ſtill enjoy the Satisfaction of having uſed their earneſt Endeavours towards promoting a Charity, whoſe Deſign had every Thing to plead in it's Behalf both regarding this Life, and a future. In Conſequence of theſe benevolent Motives the School was opened the 7th of April 1755: And after a fair Trial of an whole Year, the Society have the Pleaſure now to ſpeak from Experience, that the Scheme hath anſwered all that could in Reaſon be expected from it. Many of the Rules made at firſt, have ſince been either altered, or have received the Addition of ſuch others, from Time to Time, as Occaſion required; ſo that what is now laid before the Public, is partly a Set of Rules deduced from the Uſage or Practice of the School (having been the Method which the Managers fell into by Degrees) and partly a Collection of their written Orders and Directions as they ſtand at preſent in their Books. Theſe Rules and Cuſtoms they propoſe to adhere to, as long as they are found convenient: But the Society will ever be ready to make ſuch Alterations, as ſhall have Prudence and Utility to recommend them.

## GENERAL REGULATIONS.

I. Tho' Perſons of both Sexes are invited to be Contributers and Subſcribers to this Charity, yet the Ladies ſhall have the ſole Management: Becauſe this Affair ſeems to be their more immediate Province, and becauſe the Deſign of the Charity is more immediately to preſerve the *poorer*, and *younger* Part of their own Sex from Infamy and Ruin.

II. The

II. The Miſtreſs to teach the Children to read and ſpin, ſhall always, in Caſe of a Competition, be choſen by Ballot.

III. The Girls to be admitted ſhall be *Forty* in Number; each of whom, at the Time of her Admiſſion, ſhall be upwards of *Twelve* Years old, and under *Sixteen*.——It having been found by Trial and Experience, That Children under twelve Years old, are, in general, too young for the Intention of this Charity, both on Account of the great Waſt of Flax made by them in Spinning, and alſo by Reaſon of their Incapacity of Managing for themſelves, and of their Unfitneſs to be truſted by a Manufacturer, when their Time is expired for leaving the School.

IV. Every Girl to be admitted into the ſaid School, ſhall firſt produce a Recommendation in writing from a Subſcriber; [In which Caſe the Recommendations of Men Subſcribers will be equally valid with thoſe of Women] and if there ſhould be more Candidates than Vacancies, the Candidates themſelves ſhall draw Lots. But if *particular* Vacancies ſhould happen within the Space of one, or two Months after the Time of *general* Admiſſion (occaſioned by the Sickneſs, Death, Abſence, or Expulſion of any of the Scholars) thoſe Candidates who drew the unfortunate Lots at the Time of general Admiſſion, ſhall have the Preference to fill ſuch Particular Vacancies; and they ſhall be claſſed with, and reputed as belonging to the Set of Scholars laſt admitted.—But if the Vacancies ſhould happen after the Expiration of two Months, or eight Weeks, ſuch Vacancies ſhall remain unfilled up till the Time of general Election.

V. The School ſhall be opened only with twenty Scholars; and after they have been inſtructed Six Months, twenty more ſhall be taken in; and then at the Expiration of twelve Calender Months the firſt twenty ſhall be diſcharged, and a new Set choſen; and ſo on in Succeſſion. But note, in regard, That the Charity is now in its Infancy, and that many of the Children were taken in too Young, and that a great Deal depends upon the Reputation of the *firſt Trial*, the Society hath thought proper to vary ſo far from this Rule, as to continue the two firſt Sets of Scholars, now in the School, eighteen Months each.

VI. No

VI. No Perſon ſhall have the Liberty or Privilege of recommending, who doth not ſubſcribe *annually* half a Guinea, or upwards: Nor ſhall any one recommend a ſecond Time, till the Girl firſt recommended hath made a Vacancy.

VII. Books of Accounts containing Receipts and Diſburſements ſhall be regularly kept, and open to the Peruſal of all Subſcribers. Likewiſe the Accounts ſhall be annually made up and printed, together with the State and Progreſs of the Charity.

VIII. Whereas many Strangers, and Non-Subſcribers are pleaſed to come and view this Charity, it is thought convenient, That a *Poor-Box* ſhould be ſet up in the School with a proper Inſcription for receiving their charitable Contributions: which Money ſhall be converted into a Fund to be diſpoſed of in *Premiums*, or otherwiſe at the Diſcretion of the Viſitors as ſhall be hereafter directed.

IX. It is the preſent Opinion of this Society, That they ought not to engage in the Buying of Flax, or Selling of Yarn, as both theſe Articles might ſubject them to many Frauds and Impoſitions, beſides Expence and Trouble:—But rather to contract with a Manufacturer to ſupply the School with *good*, *clean*, *long* Flax; *Ordinary*, *ſhort*, and *ſtubby* Flax being altogether improper for teaching to Spin well and without waſte. And the Manufacturer ſhall pay for the Spinning thereof according to the Price that ſhall be hereafter fixed; to whom the Society will allow after the Rate of per Pound for all waſte.

## *General* MEETINGS *and* COMMITTEES.

I. To avoid unneſſary Expence and Trouble, the whole Society ſhall not be call'd together oftner than twice a Year; viz. The 2d Wedneſday in *April*, and the 2d in *October*.—But if there ſhould ariſe any urgent Occaſion, the Perſon or Perſons, who ſhall be appointed by the Society to keep their Accounts, or elſe any four of the Ladies Subſcribers may Summon the Society to meet, and lay the Matter before them.

II. At

II. At each general Meeting a *Committee* ſhall be appointed of ſuch a Number of Ladies, as the Meeting ſhall think proper, in order to carry on the Buſineſs with Diſpatch, likewiſe to *inſpect* and *viſit* the School, and to make ſuch Orders and Regulations, as may be neceſſary during the Interims of the general Meetings.—But all other Ladies, tho' not particularly named, are to be conſider'd, as having *equal Rights* with this Committee in all Affairs whatſoever relating to the Charity, if they will pleaſe to attend.

III. Out of the Committee ſhall be choſen four *Monthly Viſitors*; viz. two Seniors, and two Juniors: The Seniors (after having been Juniors for the preceding Month) ſhall nominate two others to be their Juniors and Co-adjutors: And when this Month is expired, the firſt two ſhall be excuſed any longer Attendance, and the next two ſhall be deemed Seniors *in Courſe*, and ſo on by Rotation. But the two former Viſitors are requeſted not to quit their Office, till they can procure Others to ſupply their Places. *Note*, This Rule likewiſe, as well as the former, is not to be ſo underſtood, as if any other Lady was excluded from viſiting and inſpecting the Charity, if ſhe will pleaſe to do the Society that Favour.

## *Particular* OFFICE *of the* VISITORS.

I. The Viſitors are deſired to attend the School twice a Week, or oftner; but particularly on the Days of Payment. They are likewiſe to note all Proceedings into a Book provided for that Purpoſe. And as the chief Excellence of the Yarn ſpun in this School, and deſigned for Weaving, doth not conſiſt ſo much in the *Fineneſs*, as in the *Evenneſs*, *Roundneſs*, and *Smoothneſs* of the Thread, with a *Look* and *Feel* like *Wire*, and free from Knobs, or unequal Parts, or the Curls of hard Twiſting, the Viſitors are requeſted to be attentive to theſe Particulars. Moreover, in Order to inculcate into the Scholars an habitual Senſe and Feeling of the Truth of that excellent Principle, that *Honeſty is the beſt Policy*, it will be highly expedient for the Viſitors now and then, as Occaſion may require, to count the Threads, and Knots of ſome of the Scholars, and to puniſh

with exemplary Severity thoſe whom they ſhall find guilty of fraudulent Practices. *Note*, according to the Cuſtom of this School, there ought to be 40 Threads in each Knot, and 30 Knots in an Hank.

II. Whereas it is agreed, That the Children ſhall have a Dinner every Day in the Week but Sundays, in the Manner herein after mentioned, the two Senior Viſitors of each Month are deſired to buy in the Proviſions, and to keep the Accounts, till they are entered into the proper Book. See the Specimen of this Book, in the folded Sheet.

III. The Viſitors at each Time of Payment (which is now fixed to every other Saturday) ſhall examine, what Quantity of Flax hath been delivered to each Girl within the preceding Fortnight, —— and what ſhe had in Store when the Fortnight begun: — They ſhall alſo examine the Weight of Yarn ſpun within the Time, —and the Quantity remaining, in order to diſcover, whether any Waſte hath been made, and how much; — or whether any Girl hath *more* than ſhe can honeſtly account for; which could not have happened without pilfering from ſome other. They ſhall moreover pronounce Judgment on the Yarn ſpun, viz. whether *good*, — *middling*, — or *bad*; — which ſhall be immediately put into three ſeperate Boxes, having *ſuitable Marks of Infamy, or Honour*, to be kept under Lock and Key. And the Pay for Spinning ſhall be in Proportion, as ſhall be ſet forth hereafter. [See the Specimen of the Book for this Purpoſe, in the folded Sheet.

IV. The Power of the Viſitors ſhall extend to the turning of any Scholar out of the School, whom they ſhall judge culpable; and to admit others in, according to the 4th Article of General Regulations, Page 5. If the Fault is of an heinous Nature, the Offender ſhall be expelled immediately; but if it is of a leſſer Kind, ſuch as loitering, abſenting from School, and the like, the Viſitors are deſired to admoniſh the Offender two ſeveral Times, and to enter ſuch Admonitions in their Book ſubſcribed with their Names: And if the Girl ſhould ſtill prove incorrigible, then the *third Regiſtering* is to be judged an abſolute Expulſion. In Caſe of

*Waſte*

*Waſte* of Flax, or a *Redundancy* of Weight, the Viſitors are impowered not only to admoniſh, as before, if they think proper, but alſo to fine the Guilty after the Rate of *one Half-penny* per Ounce. And the Money ſo ſtopped out of their *preſent Pay*, ſhall be given in Premiums to others more deſerving at the Diſcretion of the Viſitors: As ſhall likewiſe the Money that ſhall be found in the Poor Box.

V. If the Sums found in the Poor Box ſhould be conſiderable, and much more than ſufficient for the intended Premiums, the Viſitors are impowered to apply ſome *ſmall* Part of ſuch Surplus towards purchaſing of Neceſſaries for thoſe Girls, whoſe Circumſtances are *ſingularly* diſtreſsful, and call for *immediate* Relief.

## ORDERS *and* REGULATIONS *concerning the* MISTRESS.

I. She ſhall have her Houſe, or Room-Rent free, together with Fire and Candle; and a fixed Salary of 5 *l.* a Year, and *no more*. It being the Intent of this Charity, that her *chief* Income ſhould accrue from her own perſonal Diligence and Application in teaching the Children, and exciting their Induſtry; Therefore

For every Girl, who is taught to read to the Satisfaction of the Viſitors, ſhe ſhall receive a Reward of *two Shillings* from the Society; — and for every Shilling paid by the Manufacturer to each of the Girls for her Spinning, ſhe ſhall receive *two Pence* from the Society; and ſo for a greater, or a leſſer Sum.

II. She ſhall keep a *Fault-Book* to note down Abſentees, &c. and a *Flax-Book* to charge each Girl with the Quantity of Flax ſhe has received within the Fortnight, in order to be laid before the Viſitors at the Days of Payment.

III. On Sundays ſhe ſhall bring to Church all the Girls, whoſe Parents live in Town, and are not Diſſenters; and ſhall likewiſe teach them to find the Pſalms and Leſſons, the Epiſtles and Goſpels, and take Care that they

they behave decently and devoutly at Church. It is required alſo, that ſhe teach them the Church Catechiſm, with a Grace before and after Meat; and ſhall herſelf read Prayers in the School Mornings and Evenings, and obſerve, that they keep their Books without tearing, or abuſing them.

IV. She ſhall keep an Inventory of all the Wheels, Reels, and all other Goods and Furniture of the School; and in general, ſhall obſerve and execute the Orders of the Committee, or monthly Viſitors.

## RULES *and* ORDERS *for the* SCHOLARS.

I. Their School-Hours ſhall be, during the Months of *April*, *May*, *June*, *July*, *Auguſt*, and *September*, from Six to Six: —— And during the Months of *October*, *November*, *February*, and *March*, from Seven to Five: — And during the Months of *December* and *January*, from Eight to Four: that is, they ſhall not be obliged to attend during theſe reſpective Months any longer than the Hours here preſcribed. But if any of them ſhould be ſo induſtriouſly inclined as to be willing to work more Hours in the Day, they ſhall be at full Liberty to do it, provided they have Time ſufficient for going to their reſpective Homes before Night. *Note*, To prevent Diſaſters, it is not allowed to work by Candle-Light in the School upon any Account whatever.

II. Each Girl ſhall be allowed half a Pound of Bread, two Ounces of Cheeſe, and half a Pint of ſmall Beer for Dinner.

III. The School-Room ſhall be ſet round with Pegs or Pins at fourteen, or ſixteen Inches diſtance, and about ſeven, or eight Feet from the Ground: On each of theſe Pegs ſhall hang a Peice of thin Board, or Paſt-board, with the Scholars Name paſted on in Capitals; directly under the Pegs at two Feet and a Half, or three Feet Diſtance, ſhall be placed little Shelves, and under the Shelves large Pockets or ſmall Bags.—The Shelves ſhall contain the Pounds of Flax delivered to each Spinner; the Pegs ſhall ſerve to hang up the Hanks of Yarn; and the Pockets to put in the Spools, the refuſe Flax, and the Waſte. By this Regulation every Girl is obliged to keep

keep her Flax, and her Work entirely ſeparate from thoſe of another: Much Flax may be ſaved in a Year, and the very Waſte will turn to ſome Account, when carefully collected together. Moreover, every Perſon upon coming into the School, can perceive at one Glance, by the Number of Hanks belonging to each Girl's Name, which of them hath been the moſt induſtrious: Likewiſe by inſpecting the Yarn, can the readier give Praiſe or Diſpraiſe to the Spinner in the *Hearing of the reſt*. And to prevent Confuſion in placing the Wheels, and in order to gain the more Room, and promote Regularity, it is ordered that Places for the Wheels ſhall be marked out in Lines on the Floor; to which End ſquare Bits of Elm, having Holes in them, ſhall be nailed down; and theſe Holes ſhall ſerve as Sockets for the Fore-Leg of the Wheels. Therefore every Girl is ſtrictly charged to keep her Wheel in it's proper Place, and not break the Uniformity of the Line.

IV. The Meaſure, and Price of Spinning being that which are commonly in Uſe in the Weſt of England, viz. The Thread to be reeled on a Reel of two Yards round, and forty Rounds to a Knot, and ten Knots (or in other Words, 800 Yards ſpun) for a Penny: —— It is agreed with the Manufacturer, that the Hank ſhall conſiſt of thirty of the above Knots; for Spinning of which he ſhall pay Three-pence, if the Ladies ſhall judge the Yarn to be *good* —but if *middling*, then only *Half-price*, —and if *bad*, no *Price*.

V. For the Sake of Regularity in Keeping Accounts, and dividing and ſubdividing the Money each Girl on the Days of Payment, ſhall bring her Hanks in *even* Numbers, viz. 2, 4, 6, 8, &c. And if there ſhould happen to be an odd Hank, or any other Parcel of Yarn remaining thoſe Remainders, together with the Flax unſpun, ſhall be carried forwards to the next Account.

VI. At the Day of Payment each Girl ſhall receive two Thirds down; and one Third ſhall be reſerved, in order to create a little Fund to be given to her upon leaving the School. — But if the Viſitors ſhould ſee

Occaſion to *fine* any of the Spinners for *Waſte*, or *Redundancy* of Flax, Want of a due Number of Threads, or Knots, or for any other Fault at their Diſcretion, thoſe Forfeitures ſhall be ſtopped out of the Pay ſhe was then immediately to have received.

VII. When the Time is arrived for the Girls to leave the School, and a new Set to be choſen in, each Girl ſhall receive at her Diſmiſſion a Wheel, and a Reel, a Bible, a Common-Prayer, and a Spelling-Book, together with the Fund of one Third which was reſerved for her. But if ſhe leaves the School before the Time ſpecified, or if ſhe ſhould be expelled, ſhe ſhall not be entitled to any Benefit whatſoever. And the Reſerve of one Third, which otherwiſe ſhe was to have received, ſhall be put into the Charity-Box. In Caſe of Death the Repreſentatives of the Girl ſhall receive the reſerved Money, but not the Wheel and Reel, or Books:—Unleſs the Viſitors ſhall find ſome very particular Reaſon to order otherwiſe.

VIII. The Moneys that ſhall be found in the Poor-Box from Time to Time, together with the Fines or Forfeitures, ſhall be converted into a little Fund to be diſtributed by the Viſitors on Pay-Days as follows:

| | *l. s. d.* |
|---|---|
| To every Girl that ſhall Spin *moſt Thread* within a Fortnight, provided the Thread is ſufficiently good, and that there is no Waſte, and the full Number of Threads in a Knot, and Knots in an Hank, and that the Quantity ſpun is not leſs than 16 Hanks, | 0 1 0 |
| To the Girl that ſhall be *Second* to her; provided as before, and that the Quantity is not leſs than 14 Hanks, | 0 0 6 |
| To the Girl that ſhall Spin the *beſt and fineſt Thread*; provided there is no Waſte, and the full Tale of Threads and Knots, and that the Quantity is not leſs than 12 Hanks, | 0 1 0 |
| To the Girl that ſhall Spin the *Second Beſt*; provided as before, and that the Quantity is not leſs than 10 Hanks, | 0 0 6 |

*Note,*

*Note*, No Girl ſhall receive the *ſame* Prize more than twice: And a Girl, who has won the higheſt Prize, ſhall not afterwards be allowed to be a Candidate for the lower Prize; becauſe that is falling off inſtead of making a Progreſs. Moreover, for the further Encouragement of the Scholars, and to excite their Emulation, the Names of ſuch as ſhall win the higheſt Prizes, whether of *moſt* in Quantity, or *beſt* in Quality, ſhall be hung up in a Frame in ſome conſpicuous Part of the School, nearly adjoining to this Table of Premiums or Prizes.

IX. All the Girls ſhall be aſſiſtant in their Turns, or according to the Direction of the Miſtreſs, in cleaning the Room, and doing the neceſſary Work of the Houſe. Moreover they ſhall not fail every Night to pick up all the looſe Threads, or ſcatter'd Bits of Flax, and put them into the Box provided for that Purpoſe.

A Specimen

And now, the Society having laid before the Public theſe Accounts, and Details of their ſeveral Proceedings, beg leave to obſerve, That the Reaſons for their being thus minute and circumſtantial were partly, That others might copy from, or improve upon them, if they pleaſed; but more eſpecially that they themſelves might profit by the judicious Remarks and Obſervations that may be made, and the Amendments ſuggeſted. Actuated therefore by the ſame Motives, they are in no Diſpoſition of concealing the *Difficulties*, and even the *Miſtakes* they have been ſubject to; inaſmuch as theſe Things are almoſt unavoidable in every new Undertaking, and may be a Means of *preventing* the like in others. As to *Difficulties*, they ſtill labour under conſiderable Ones, in not having more than one Wheel-Right in the City to make and mend. To whoſe Humour and Pleaſure they are therefore ſubject, not only in point of *Expence*, but alſo in regard to *Time*; ſo that many of their Wheels have been obliged to lye ſtill for ſeveral Days together. This is one Cauſe not only of ſwelling the Article of Expence higher than it otherwiſe need have been, or, 'tis to be hoped, will be hereafter; but alſo, why the Quantity of Yarn is not ſo great as might be expected. In regard to *Miſtakes*, they think they committed one in admitting Children rather too young for the Buſineſs: And they certainly committed another in not providing, at firſt ſetting out, thoſe proper Checks againſt waſting, which they contrived afterwards. Theſe two Articles muſt go a great Way towards accounting for the Deficiency that appears in the folded Sheet, in the Returns of Yarn compared with the Quantity of Flax:—Tho' ſomething likewiſe muſt be aſcribed to the Badneſs of the Material itſelf: For, tho' the Flax might have done well enough under the Management of an able and expert Spinner, yet a great deal of it was not ſo proper to be put into the Hands of raw, unexperienced Beginners. But theſe, and ſuch like Matters are of Courſe to be expected in every new Inſtitution, becauſe they are in a great Meaſure not to be guarded againſt till Time and Experience have brought them to Light: And then they are to be

corrected or remov'd by Patience and Perſeverance, and a proper Change of Meaſures.

Having proceeded thus far, it may not be amiſs, before we conclude, briefly to State, What *may*, and What *ought not* to be expected from this School, or any ſuch charitable Inſtitution.

In the firſt Place, It ought not to be expected, That all the Girls educated in this School will prove complete Spinners; becauſe there is ſomething of a Genius and a Talent required in this, as in every Thing elſe: And where that is wanting to a great Degree, no Inſtruction will ſupply its Place.

2dly, It ought not in Reaſon to be expected, That any Set of Regulations can prevent Beginners from making ſome Waſte of the Materials they uſe: And this Waſte will be more or leſs, not only according to the Goodneſs of the Flax, and of the Wheels, the Age of the Children, and the Care and Dexterity of the Miſtreſs in teaching, but alſo in Proportion to the Talents and Diſpoſition of the Spinners, their Native Induſtry, Neatneſs, or the Contraries. As to the Waſte hitherto made in this School, it is about one fifth Part of the Whole: And if in a following Year, it can be reduced to about one tenth, or one twelvth Part, perhaps ſuch Savings will be as great as the Circumſtances of the Caſe will admit.

3dly, It muſt not be expected, that this Inſtitution will prove in all Reſpects *infallible*, either in a Commercial, or a moral View. As to the Commercial Part, ſomething has been ſaid already, and more will be remarked hereafter: But in regard to Morals and a virtuous Character, ſuffice it to obſerve, That it is a very grea Step towards the Preſervation of Innocence, and a proper Foundation for Religion, to remove Temptations out of the Way, and to place Perſons, young Perſons eſpecially, in ſuch a Scene of Life as will employ both their Time, and their Thoughts in a regular Courſe of honeſt Induſtry; putting them

## A Specimen of the Visitors Monthly Account of Dinners. [See Rule II. Page 8.]

| Names of the Visitors, & when began & ended. | Stores remaining of last Account. | | Fresh Provisions, & Sums paid for them. | | | Total of Provisions charged. | | Account of Dinners in gross Numbers. | Deductions for Absentees. | Quantity of Provisions actually expended. | Stores remaining. | | Deficiencies. | | Total of Provisions discharged. | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | lb. oz. | lb. | l. s. | d. | | lb. oz. | | | | lb. oz. | | lb. oz. | | | lb. oz. |
| Mrs. H. Miss G. Mrs. D. and Mrs. C. began Jan. 12. ended Feb. 7. | Bread | 50 0 | 420 | 1 14 | 4 ½ | Bread | 470 0 | 24 Days Spinning. | 960 | 819 ½ Pounds Bread | 409 8 | 58 8 | 2 0 | Bread | 470 0 |
| | Cheese | 15 10 | 129 | 1 0 | 9 ½ | Cheese | 144 10 | 40 Scholars. | 141 Absent | 819 two Oz. Cheese | 102 6 | 41 14 | 0 6 | Cheese | 144 10 |
| | Gall. Beer | 24 0 | 36 Gal. | 0 8 | 0 | Gall. Beer | 60 0 | 960 Dinners. | 819 Actual | 819 ½ Pints Beer Gal. | 51 3 | 8 13 | | Gall. Beer | 60 |
| Received the Contents of the Treasurer | | | | £. 3 11 | 2 | S. G. Visitor. | | | | | | | | | | |

## A Specimen of the general Pay and Check-Book, every Fortnight, according to Rule III. Page 8.

| Schola. Names. | Former Store of Flax and Yarn. | Flax delivered. | Total to account for. | Weight of Hanks. | Flax & Yarn remaining. | Deficiency of Weight. | Number of Hanks and Quality. | ⅔ paid down. | ⅓ reserved. | Bounty to the Mistress. | Fines. | Prizes. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Begun Monday March | lb. Oz. | lb. Oz. | lb. Oz. | lb. Oz. | lb. Oz. | lb. Oz. | | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. | s. d. |
| R. M. | 0 9 ¼ | 7 0 | 7 9 ¼ | 6 14 ½ | 0 8 ½ | 0 *2 ¼ | 14 Good | 2 4 | 1 2 | 0 7 | | 0 6 |
| M. C. | 1 0 ¼ | 2 0 | 3 0 ¼ | 1 3 | 1 7 | 0 6 ¼ | 4 Good | 0 8 | 0 4 | 0 2 | 0 3 | |
| A. D. | 0 9 ¼ | 1 0 | 1 9 ¼ | 1 3 | 0 3 | 0 3 ¼ | 2 Middling | 0 2 | 0 1 | 0 0 ½ | 0 1 | |
| E. C. | 0 12 ½ | 2 0 | 2 12 ½ | 1 7 ½ | 1 1 ½ | 0 2 ½ | 2 Bad | None | None | None | | |
| Ended Sat. April | | | | 8 1 ½ | Weight | of | 18 Good | | | | | |
| | | | | 1 3 | Weight | of | 2 Middling | | | | | |
| | | | | 1 7 ½ | Weight | of | 2 Bad | | | | | |
| | | | Total | 10 12 | | Total | 22 | 3 2 | 1 7 | 0 9 ½ | 0 4 | 0 6 |

* Note, Though the Rule is (Page 9.) that for every Ounce deficient, the Spinner shall forfeit One Halfpenny; yet, as all Beginners will necessarily make some Waste, more or less, the Visitors do not rigorously adhere to the Letter of the Rule; but vary from it occasionally according to the Quantity of the Flax, the Nature of it, the Time which the Girl hath been in the School, and other Circumstances.

## An Account current of Monies received and disbursed on Account of the Spinning-School, from the 8th of January 1755, (being the Time of publishing the first Proposal) to the 7th of April, 1756.

| RECEIPTS. | £. s. d. |
|---|---|
| By Benefactions | 55 2 6 |
| By Annual Subscriptions | 258 11 6 |
| | 313 14 0 |

| DISBURSEMENTS. | £. s. d. |
|---|---|
| Repairs and fitting up of the House for opening the School, Rent, and Taxes, | 34 6 11 |
| Purchase of Wheels, Reels, and Repairs of ditto | 20 18 0 |
| Mistress's Account of Coal, Candle, Oil for the Wheels, Mops, and petty Disburtements | 7 14 9 ¼ |
| Printing, Stationary Articles, Bibles, Common-Prayers, and Spelling-Books, for the School, Summonses, Porterage, &c. | 16 4 3 ½ |
| Amount of Dinners | 34 18 10 |
| Salary to the Mistress, Bounties, and Gratuities | 12 14 11 ¼ |
| Carriage of Flax and Yarn, and Payment for Flax wasted, after the Rate of 7 d. lb. | 10 6 1 |
| Sums placed in the two Bristol Banks, by Order of a General Meeting | 147 0 0 |
| Ballance remaining in the Hands of J. Tucker and J. Camplin | 19 9 4 ½ |
| | 313 14 0 |

Bristol, April 8, 1756, examined,
Thomas Harris,
Thomas Farr, jun.
James Laroche, jun.

## An Account of Flax received, and Yarn delivered from the Opening of the School, April 7, 1755, to the 7th of April 1756.

| | lb. oz. |
|---|---|
| Flax bought of Mr. Welsh at the first Opening of the School | 24 0 |
| Flax received of Mr. Toogood, the Manufacturer at Sherborne | 993 0 |
| Flax bought of Mr. Welch, when the Stock sent by the Manufacturer happened to be out | 12 0 |
| | 1029 0 |

| | lb. oz. |
|---|---|
| Yarn spun by the Scholars, Weight, | 796 14 ½ |
| Yarn spun by a blind Girl and another, by the Permission of the Visitors | 31 5 |
| Deficiencies or Waste | 200 12 ½ |
| | 1029 0 |

Note, Some Part of the above 200lb. Waste may be heckled over again, the rest may serve for Tow; and what is unfit for that Use, may go to the Paper-Mills.

hem at the ſame Time beyond the Reach of periſhing Neceſſity, and nſpiring them with a decent Value and Regard for themſelves, and heir Characters. By theſe Means none will be in Danger of being corrupted, but ſuch only, who, pre-determined to ſeek the Temptation, take Pains to place themſelves in it's Way. And perhaps no Inſtitution whatever would be a ſufficient Guard in ſuch a Caſe.

However, tho' our Hopes are to be moderated regarding the Succeſs of this, and indeed every other human Undertaking; yet they are not to be depreſſed too low. And we may juſtly expect, in the firſt Place, That a Girl, with a tolerably good Hand, will be able to get, before ſhe leaves the School, two Shillings a Week, working only the uſual School Hours: And that, by a little longer Practice, ſhe may advance her Pay to half-a-Crown, or three Shillings. The common Gettings of a good Hand (by Spinning 10 Knots, or 800 Yards within two Hours) is *a Penny*; which amounts to Six-pence per Day without much Fatigue, or wearing out of Cloaths, Detriment to Health, or Waſte of Strength. And as this is entirely an *In-door* Work, the future *Wives*, or *Widows* of poor Journeymen, or Seamen, may thus be able to contribute ſomething towards the common Stock, at the ſame Time that they will always be on the Spot to take Care of their Families, to dreſs their Victuals and the like.

2dly, It may be expected, That the Children of ſuch Mothers, the Girls eſpecially, will be trained up to get their Bread, during the younger Part of Life, in the ſame induſtrious, honeſt Way; whereas, at preſent, the Mothers have neither the Skill to teach them any uſeful Trade, fitted to their Years and Sex;—Nor, if they had, have they any Ability to purchaſe the neceſſary Implements for carrying it on. Moreover, as this City hath been quite deſtitute hitherto of proper Imployments for Women and Children, it is not likely, that the Caſe would ſoon be mended by any other Methods, than ſuch as are here now purſued: For is it probable, that Manufacturers would remove from their fixed Abodes,

to be at the Trouble and Expence of teaching Beginners, and buying them all the neceſſary Inſtruments, without any Reference, nay, in direct Oppoſition to their own Intereſt? This is not to be ſuppoſed: Therefore, as all Beginnings muſt be attended with conſiderable Expence and Loſs, the only Method of ſupporting the Expence with a truly charitable Deſign, and, at the ſame Time without bearing too hard on any Individual, is what is here now recommended.

3dly, From this whole State of the Caſe, We may reaſonably infer, that the preſent Deſign of the Society will be ſo far from miſcarrying, that, it will be rather introductory to many other good and laudable Purpoſes.—At leaſt we may expect, That all Perſons bred to the Buſineſs, will induſtriouſly follow it, till they can get a more lucrative Imploy in Trades, or Services. And when either of theſe ſhould fail them, that is when Places are loſt through Sickneſs, through Faults, or Miſunderſtandings, the Art of Spinning will then become their ſure and honeſt Retreat, till they can get Places again, to protect them in the mean while from Want, Infamy, and Ruin. Nay, if only the Hours, which are now *waſted away* in almoſt all Families poor, as well as rich, were properly employed in Spinning, or ſuch like Manufacture, it is hardly conceiveable, what an Addition this would make to the National Stock of Induſtry and Wealth. Moreover, when once the Article of Spinning hath made a conſiderable Progreſs, nothing can be eaſier than to graft upon it the Inſtitution of a Weaving School. For the one is, by Nature, almoſt a neceſſary Conſequence of the other: And, as we are informed, hath been ever ſo regarded by the Induſtrious Nations of Antiquity. Beſides, in this Caſe, we have the Pleaſure to remark, That even excluſive Companies and confining Corporations (thoſe Banes of the Public Good) cannot obſtruct the *natural Courſe* of ſuperior Induſtry, or Ingenuity; inaſmuch as by a particular Law made many Years ago, both Induſtry and Ingenuity are allowed to exert their utmoſt Abilities in the ſeveral Manufactures of Linnen, Hemp, and Tapeſtry, without any Let or Moleſtation whatſoever. And as the Weaving of Linnen, eſpecially ſuch Pieces which do not exceed three

Quarters,

Quarters, or three Quarters and a-half-wide, is naturally much fitter for Women, than for Men to perform, we ſhall conclude here with this ſingle Remark, That while the Men are more properly employed at Sea, or in the Army, or in other the more laborious Occupations ſuited to their Sex and Strength,—the Women may conſtantly earn (excepting a few Months of Pregnancy) from five to eight Shillings per Week at their reſpective Looms. A Circumſtance this! which would become the beſt kind of *Marriage-Portions* to poor young Women, and be a Means of ſubſiſting both themſelves and their future Families with Decency and Comfort;——not to mention the Enriching of this Country by their Labour and Induſtry, without involving us in any Danger or Diſpute.

*Note*, Thoſe Perſons who ſhall pleaſe to correſpond with this Society, are deſired to direct their Letters to the Rev. Dr. TUCKER, or the Rev. Mr. CAMPLIN in BRISTOL, who will communicate their Contents to the Subſcribers,

*FINIS.*